

Service Date: December 26, 1980

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

\* \* \* \*

IN THE MATTER of the Application )	
of RONAN TELEPHONE COMPANY For )	UTILITY DIVISION
Authority To Establish Increased )	DOCKET NO. 80.4.8
Rates For Telephone Service. )	ORDER NO. 4715a
_____ )	

APPEARANCES

FOR THE APPLICANT:

Dennis R. Lopach, Scribner, Huss & Hjort, P. O. Box 514,  
Helena, Montana 59601

FOR THE PROTESTANT:

James C. Paine, Montana Consumer Counsel, 34 West Sixth  
Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Robert F. W. Smith, Staff Attorney  
Eric Eck, Staff C.P.A.

BEFORE:

George Turman, Commissioner & Hearing Examiner  
Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman  
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On November 17, 1980, the Montana Public Service Commission issued Order No. 4715a in Docket No. 80.4.8.

2. On November 25, 1980, the Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) filed a Motion For Reconsideration. There were three issues raised by the motion filed by MCC: (1) an error which resulted in a \$1,200 overstatement of the rate base, (2) failure to address

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the investment tax credit associated with the 400 line addition, (3) failure to include revenues which will be received as a result of the 400 line addition in rate base.

3. Finding of Fact No. 19 contains an error which overstated rate base by \$1,200. The Applicant did not contest this rate base reduction. The rate base accepted by the Commission is \$995,350.

4. On December 16, 1980, the Commission received an amended agreed settlement signed by the Applicant and MCC. This settlement includes a proforma adjustment of \$12,687 to revenues generated from the new switching equipment and an agreement that Order No. 4715 should not address the ratemaking treatment of the investment tax credit to be generated by Applicant's 1980 plant additions. This amended agreed settlement is accepted by the Commission and is hereby made part of the record in this Docket.

5. The Commission in recognizing the proforma adjustment to revenue of \$12,687 authorizes Applicant to implement a rate increase of \$92,272.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Ronan Telephone Company is a public utility operating under the regulatory jurisdiction of this Commission.

2. Pursuant to Section 2-4-601, MCA, the Commission gave all interested persons notice and an opportunity to participate in this proceeding.

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3. The rate levels and rate structures approved herein are just and reasonable.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, at a session of the Public Service Commission, Department of Public Service Regulation of the State of Montana, held in its offices at 1227 - 11th Avenue, Helena, Montana, on the 19th day of December, 1980, there being present a quorum of Commissioners, there came regularly before the Commission for final action the matters and things in Docket No. 80.4.8 and the Commission being fully advised in the premises;

IT IS ORDERED by the Commission that the Ronan Telephone Company file tariffs consistent with this Order that will yield total revenues of \$92,272. The rates are to be effective for telephone service rendered on and after December 19, 1980.

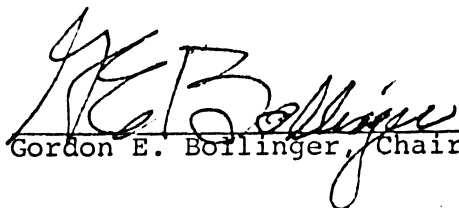
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Applicant shall inform the Commission of any determination of its dispute with the Internal Revenue Service as soon as a decision is made.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a full, true and correct copy of this order be sent forthwith by first class United States mail to the Applicant, and to all other persons appearing in this docket.

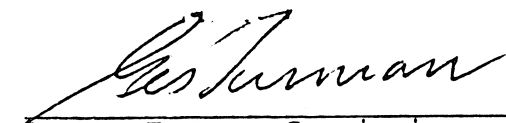
THE FOREGOING ORDER was adopted by the Department of Public Service Regulation of the State of Montana, Public Service Commission, IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 19th day of December, 1980 by a 3 - 0 vote.

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BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

  
Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

  
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

  
George Turman, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Madeline L. Cottrill  
Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: You may be entitled to judicial review of the final decision in this matter. If no Motion For Reconsideration is filed, judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this Order. If a Motion For Reconsideration is filed, a Commission order is final for purposes of appeal upon the entry of a ruling on that motion, or upon the passage of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Sec. 2-4-702, MCA; and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38.2.4806, ARM.